

Washington Roundtable; Representative David Upthegrove, Washington House of Representatives; Representative Dave Quall, Washington House of Representatives; Dr. Robert Butts, Assistant Superintendent, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

West Virginia: Mrs. Priscilla Haden, State Facilitator, Member, State Board of Education; Delegate Tom Campbell, West Virginia House of Delegates; Mr. Ben Beakes, Chief of Staff, West Virginia Secretary of State; Mr. Bill Thomas, West Virginia Legislative Reference and Information Center; Ms. Regina Scotchie, Social Studies Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Education.

Wisconsin: Ms. Dee Runaas, State Facilitator; Dr. Diana Hess, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin; Honorable Elizabeth A. Burmaster, State Superintendent; Senator Luther Olsen, Wisconsin State Senate; Dr. Richard Grobshmidt, Assistant State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction; Lindsey Draper, Milwaukee County Children's Court; Senator Robert Jauch, Wisconsin State Senate; Ms. Beth Ratway, Social Studies Consultant, Department of Public Instruction.

Wyoming: Mr. Matt Strannigan, State Facilitator; Ms. Wendy Madsen, Legislative Information Officer, Wyoming Legislature; Senator Mike Massie, Wyoming State Senate; Mr. Geoff O'Gara, Member, Member, Wyoming State Board of Education; Representative Rosie Berger, Wyoming House of Representatives; Ms. Kristi Wallin, Coordinator, Wyoming Partnership for Civic Education.

SAMOYEDS STRUT STUFF IN OWENSBORO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it was President Harry Truman who observed, half a century ago, that "if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog." That is perhaps a little harsh. Nevertheless, I note that many of my colleagues in the Congress are dog fanciers, and the Senate is a strikingly dog-friendly workplace. So it is fitting that we pay tribute to a renowned people-friendly breed of dog: the Samoyed. Legendary for their beauty, friendly spirit and heroic and historic treks to the North and South Poles, Samoyeds pulled the adventurers of yesteryear to new frontiers.

Several hundred Samoyeds and their humans will be pulling into Owensboro, KY, in October for the Samoyed Club of America's "Simply Southern" National Specialty. While I am pleased that these noble dogs and their guardians will be visiting the Commonwealth, it is, sadly, because of Hurricane Katrina's devastation in Biloxi, MS, where the event was originally scheduled to be held. So the SCA Specialty this year is a hurricane evacuee, but in addition to contributing over \$10,000 from show proceeds to animal rescue in the devastated region, the organizers look forward to going back to a rebuilt and newly vibrant gulf coast in the future.

Samoyed dogs were named for the semi nomadic tribe which developed the breed. Living along the shores of the Arctic Ocean, north of Russia and Siberia, they were one of the earliest tribes of Central Asia. They depended upon their dogs to herd reindeer, pro-

tect against wolves, hunt bears, and even keep the children warm as they slept. Their endurance and intelligence made the Samoyed dogs prized members of early European expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic. Borchgrevink, Amundsen, and Shackleton in the Antarctic, and Nansen and Abruzzi in the Arctic, counted on Samoyeds to explore the extreme and then uncharted ends of the Earth. The American explorers Fiala and Baldwin also used Samoyed sled teams. Most of the Samoyeds in England and the United States today are related to sled dogs from those expeditions.

Among them was Rex of White Way, who was renown as the lead dog on the U.S. Mail sled team that used to run the 64-mile mail delivery route from Ashton, ID, to West Yellowstone, over the 7000-foot Targhee Pass. Rex was a superb canine athlete and hero. He even learned to parachute on rescue missions that retrieved survivors of airplane crashes and a snowbound train in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Although Samoyeds are a medium-sized dog ranging in weight from 35-65 pounds, they are very strong. Rex of White Way broke the world weight-pull record in 1953 by pulling 1,870 pounds.

Samoyeds have been described as "by nature . . . not a quarrelsome dog though he will stand his ground for what he feels are his rights. Each Samoyed is an individual, even from one litter. One will be very attentive and obedient while another may be more headstrong and less demanding of affection as long as he knows the house is his castle when he wants it and he owns you."

One may detect in that description some symmetry with Senators.

The description goes on: He has a keen sense of knowing when you are happy, sad, who really loves him, just tolerates him, dislikes him and he will return his love accordingly. He is a 'talky' dog and with encouragement will voice his pleasures and his dislikes. Some enjoy jokes and ham it up when laughed at while others resent it. He will speak with his paw or nose.

Samoyeds today are still pulling sleds. They are also skijoring, pulling scooters, herding, excelling in agility and obedience trials and otherwise exemplify the "Working" class of dogs. As therapy dogs, they bring joy and comfort to people in nursing homes and hospitals. Indeed, at least one Samoyed therapy dog that I know of, Gidget (Salish's Potomac Fervour), recently visited Hurricane Katrina evacuees from Gulfport, MS, who are currently residing at the Armed Forces Retirement Home here in Washington. She teams up with another Samoyed, Samantha, in regular visits with children at Inova Fairfax Hospital in northern Virginia. So these are not just beautiful dogs, they are hard-working dogs, doing great work for many people around the country.

On October 24, hundreds of Samoyeds, with their humans in tow, lit-

erally as they are prone to pull, will arrive in Owensboro. For some it will have been a harrowing journey since Hurricane Katrina roared ashore. Sheila and Walter Herrmann, co-chairs of the event and residents of Covington, LA, described their hurricane experience: Walter and I were hunkered down for the storm watching tree after tree fall and a tornado touch down and make a disaster of our kennels (the dogs, our own as well as the boarders were safely crated in the safest portion of our house) talking about the national is what helped us get through it.

Others involved in beating the odds and making this event happen include: Pam Barbe, Karen Brooks, Diane Dotson, Peggy Green, and Laurie Stone. I would also like to thank Jim and Celinda Cheskawich for all their good work.

Mr. President, Kentucky and I extend a warm welcome to the Samoyed Club of America's 2005 "Simply Southern" National Specialty.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On January 16, 2005, a man was attacked with broken glass bottles by two men outside his home in Manhattan, NY. The apparent motivation for the attack was the man's sexual orientation.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

NOMINATION OF JOHN ROBERTS

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, with the Judiciary Committee's confirmation hearings all but complete, I rise today to announce my vote on the nomination of Judge John Roberts to serve as the 17th Chief Justice and the 116th Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

I have come to my decision not in haste, but with great care and consideration. Over the history of our Nation, relatively few Senators have had the opportunity to consider the nomination of a Chief Justice and I recognize the honor that accompanies this great responsibility.

Judge Roberts is an extremely well qualified nominee. Some have said he